

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2005

7:15 p.m.

ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio
Patricia E. Cornish
Holly Fechner
Deborah L. Horan
Shirley L. Johnson
Anne S. Kasper
Elizabeth Keyes
Fauzia R. Najm
Martha Nguyen
Regina L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Shelia Parker
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Resa Levy

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. President Horan noted an additional item under the Executive Committee Report to discuss the upcoming meeting with the County Executive's staff. Commissioner Osias asked that a discussion on the domestic workers study be included under Committee Reports. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Osias and unanimously passed, the revised agenda was approved.

Commissioner Oldak pointed out a correction to page 6 (Item B) of the October 26, 2005 Minutes. She said that at the MLAW Conference she facilitated the presentations of all of the proposals including those of the MCCFW. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Johnson, duly seconded by Commissioner Nguyen and unanimously passed, the Minutes were approved with the amendments.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....Horan

A. Maryland Pay Equity Commission

Governor Ehrlich has appointed the members of the Pay Equity Commission, including Tracy Brown, who was among those recommended by the MCCFW. The new commission has not yet met.

B. President's Advisory Council

The next Presidents' Advisory Council Meeting will be November 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Tony Lin's Kitchen in Rockville. Commissioner Kasper will speak on the topic of healthcare reform. Commissioners are encouraged to attend; please call Administrative Specialist Paula Rodgers to RSVP.

C. Human Rights Hall of Fame

At its meeting held on November 9, the Executive Committee suggested that CFW nominate Emily Edmonson for the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights Hall of Fame. Emily Edmonson (1835-1895) was an abolitionist who worked with Frederick Douglass, and her failed attempt to escape slavery increased the public will to end slavery in the U.S. Emily's story is featured in the CFW Women's History Archives and, in 2004, she was inducted into the Maryland Commission for Women Hall of Fame. The library meeting room at CFW is also named in her memory. Commissioner Cornish moved that Ms. Edmonson be nominated into the 2006 OHR Hall of Fame; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and unanimously approved. Staff will prepare the nomination form.

D. Maryland Commission for Women's 40th Anniversary

The Maryland CFW is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on December 8, from 6-8 p.m. at the American Visionary Art Museum in Annapolis. President Horan is planning to attend the celebration.

E. Meeting With County Executive's Staff

CFW is invited to meet with Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Romer, Director of Office of Management and Budget, Beverly Swaim Staley, and Special Assistant to the County Executive, Deborah Goodwin, on December 12 at 9 p.m. President Horan and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will attend the meeting along with Commissioners Cornish, Najm and Oldak.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. County Minority Affairs Business Manager Bill

A letter has been sent to Council President Perez from CFW, commending the County Council for establishing a Minority Business Affairs Manager in the Department of Economic Development. The letter also urges the Council to include the term “women” in the position’s working title.

B. Community Service Day

The County’s Volunteer Bureau has provided CFW with the name of a family for CFW to “adopt” for the Community Service Day Holiday Giving Project. Commissioner Aparicio said that the family includes a single mother residing in Rockville with her five children, and two of them are 1-year old twins. Commissioners who are interested in participating in the project may submit checks made payable to Commissioner Aparicio. She will use the contributions to purchase a Thanksgiving dinner, and holiday gifts and dinner in December.

C. Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB) Attendance Policy

The CERB Committee adopted a new attendance policy that becomes effective in January 2006. The County Attorney’s Office is considering whether the policy applies to commissioners’ attendance at subcommittee meetings.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Commission and this portion of the meeting was closed.

V. STAFF REPORTVaughan-Prather

A. Annual Report

Commission and Counseling Center staff has completed drafting their submissions for the FY 05 Annual Report and it is now ready to be formatted and sent to the printer in early December.

B. FY 07 Budget

The County’s FY07 budget proposal is ready to submit in time for the November 30, 2005 due date. As reported at the October 26th CFW meeting, the department does not anticipate a decrease in funding for its services in FY07, but there is no room for new programs.

C. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Commissioners are invited to attend the CFW Counseling and Career Center annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on December 1, from 12 to 2 p.m. This is a very nice event and commissioners are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Alyssa Philipp by November 23.

D. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

The bill to establish a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is still under consideration. A worksession will take place this week to review the technical issues such as staffing, and scope of authority of the Coordinating Council.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Kasper

The committee met on November 9 to identify legislative priorities to recommend to CFW for this year. A copy of the recommendation is in the meeting packet. The final agenda will be incorporated as a public record with the Minutes of tonight's meeting.

Following discussion of the legislative agenda, commissioners suggested that two bills ("Combating Human Trafficking" and "Paid Family and Medical Leave/Work-Life"), be considered as part of the State agenda instead of the federal agenda, and that the action level for the human trafficking legislation be changed from S3 to S1. Commissioner Kasper moved approval of the 2006 County and State Legislative Agenda as amended and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson pointed out that a vote on the predatory lending bill is likely before the end of the year.

The Clean Air Act has been passed in 10 states and 2 countries.

(1) Women's Legislative BriefingOldak

The keynote speaker will be Susan F. Wood, former Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health and Director of the FDA's Office of Women's Health. Dr. Wood recently resigned her post to protest the politicization of science when the FDA ignored scientific and clinical evidence, overruling its own staff recommendations regarding the "morning after pill." Senator Sharon Grosfeld will introduce Dr. Wood.

(2) Maryland Legislative Agenda for WomenOldak

The October 22, 2005 MLAW conference included consideration of two veto overrides: SB 257 and the Fair Share Health Care Act. A revised MLAW ballot was distributed this evening along with the Executive Committee's recommendations for how the CFW should vote:

- 1 - Health Care for All/Healthy Maryland Initiative
- 2 - Human Trafficking Involuntary Servitude
- 3 - Protective Orders – Duration of Final Order
- 4 - Transfer of Title of Marital Property

Commissioner Oldak moved approval of the CFW ballot recommended by the Policy and Legislation Committee and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Osias raised some concerns she has heard with regard to the Marital Property bill, but after discussion, she withdrew her concern.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin)Yang

(1) Right to Know Brochures - The IWin Committee met earlier this evening. The Spanish brochures of the *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* and *Employment Rights of Pregnant Women* booklets have been finalized with the printer. The Korean brochure is under final review and work has begun on the Chinese and Vietnamese brochures.

It is hoped that on March 8, 2006 (International Women's Day), a press conference to launch the brochures will be held.

Diversity Day Program - On October 28, the IWin Committee presented a program for the County's Diversity Week celebration. "*Undocumented, Exploited and Invisible: Immigrant women, domestic servitude and forced prostitution.*" The panel of speakers included Commissioners Keyes, Aparicio and Nguyen. Also on the panel was Martina E. Vandenberg, an Associate with the firm Jenner and Block and a former Europe Researcher for Human Rights Watch's Women's Rights Division, and Brad Myles, the National Program Coordinator for U.S. Programs and a representative of the Polaris Project.

Seventy-four people attended the program and all reviewed it as excellent.

Commissioner Kasper said that the program was excellent and that she and Commissioner Fechner were discussing the idea of having the Undocumented, Exploited and Invisible program presented as a briefing on Capitol Hill.

(3) Domestic Workers Project – The IWin committee hopes to develop the domestic workers brochure in English, Spanish, French and Tagalog. Commissioner Keyes will coordinate this project.

The second *Chocolate, Checks and Champagne* fundraiser will be held April 30, 2006 at Commissioner Najm’s home, from 2-4 pm. Commissioners will be asked to donate their favorite chocolate dish.

(4) Domestic Workers Study – Councilmember George Leventhal’s office arranged a meeting to discuss a study of domestic workers. He would like the study to document the frequency of problems in employment of domestic workers. CASA is promoting legislation on the issue of domestic workers and Mr. Leventhal would like the study conducted beforehand. Much of the discussion in the meeting was about how to do the study and where to find the funding for it. Mr. Leventhal suggested finding a university to conduct the study and possibly some foundation to fund it.

The discussions will be ongoing. Councilman Leventhal’s office will contact Royce Hanson at George Washington University.

C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM)Cornish

The first meeting of the SWIM Committee was held on October 27 with the new Staff Research Associate Claudia Lujan. The committee developed a purpose/mission of the report and plans to examine the status of women in Montgomery County across broad indicators. The committee will hold its meetings in the mornings. (A schedule of all CFW and committee meetings was included in tonight’s packet).

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Girls and Technology

Commissioner Smith said that he has obtained the enrollment data for girls in information technology courses at Montgomery County Public Schools and the numbers are woefully low.

B. Women’s Fair

In Commissioner Levy’s absence, President Horan gave the report. She said that Commissioner Levy met with the chair of the fundraising committee of the 2006 Women’s Fair and was offering suggestions for raising money for the event.

C. HRC Fair Housing

Commissioner Johnson reported that the next Fair Housing Committee meeting will be November 17, 2005.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. “Voice of the Victim,” a program of the Migrant and Refugee Cultural Support, Inc. (MIRECS) is launching the Anti-Human Trafficking Violence Campaign with a press conference on November 22. Information was distributed in the meeting packet. Commissioner Keyes explained that MIRECS has been reaching into the immigrant community and training people to recognize the victims of forced labor, forced prostitution and servile marriage. Ms. Keyes will be speaking on behalf of CASA at the press conference.
- B. Commissioner Fechner announced that the Pension Reform bill containing important protections for widows was passed by the Senate. The bill now has to go before a conference committee in the House. Ms. Fechner will draft a letter encouraging groups to support this bill and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will send a broadcast email encouraging women’s groups to write in support of this legislation.

The House and Senate conferenced the bill that contained the requirement that the Department of Labor continue to collect data on female workers. However, the overall bill under funds programs for other groups.
- C. Commissioner Johnson announced that Congressman Van Hollen is convening a town hall meeting for 8th Congressional District residents on November 21 at the Takoma Park Middle School. Topics to be discussed include the Iraq War, social security, education and health care.
- D. CNBC is televising programs on the new Medicare Drug Program on November 19 and 20, from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**

CFW Action and Follow-Up Items

- ☐ 1. The next Presidents Advisory Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Kasper will speak on the topic of healthcare reform. The meeting will take place at Tony Lin's Kitchen Restaurant at 12015-G Rockville Pike.
- ☐ 2. Staff will prepare the nomination form for Emily Edmonson's submission into the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights Hall of Fame.
- ☐ 3. President Horan will attend the Maryland CFW's 40th Anniversary celebration on December 8, from 6-8 p.m. at the American Visionary Art Museum in Annapolis.
- ☐ 4. CFW is invited to meet with Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Romer, Director of Office of Management and Budget, Beverly Swaim Staley, and Special Assistant to the County Executive, Deborah Goodwin, on December 12 at 9 p.m. President Horan and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will attend the meeting along with Commissioners Cornish, Najm and Oldak.
- ☐ 5. The County's Volunteer Bureau has provided a family for CFW to "adopt" for its Community Service Day Holiday Giving project. Commissioners interested in participating may submit checks made payable to Commissioner Aparicio
- ☐ 6. Commissioners are invited to attend CFW Counseling and Career Center annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on December 1, from 12 to 2 p.m. Please RSVP to Alyssa Philipp by November 23.
- ☐ 7. Commissioner Keyes will coordinate the IWin Committee project to develop the Domestic Workers brochure in English, Spanish, French and Tagalog.
- ☐ 8. Mark Your Calendar! The second *Chocolate, Checks and Champagne* fundraiser will be held April 30, 2006 at Commissioner Najm's home, from 2-4 pm.
- ☐ 9. Commissioner Fechner will draft a letter in support of the Pension Reform bill and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will send a broadcast email encouraging women's groups to write in support of this legislation.